

24th. Soon after 11 A.M. the land was sighted, the Skellig Rock, 700 feet high, a breeding-station of Gannets. It has a very picturesque appearance, rising straight out of the sea, with a pointed and serrated top, and a white line like a road winding round its western side. We passed at some distance. The first land neared was the Bull, the westernmost of three rocks, the others being called the Cow and Calf, on the last of which is a lighthouse. The Bull has a passage entirely through its base like an archway or tunnel, apparently (at the distance we were) amply large enough for a railway train to pass through. The rock itself appears like a large heap of limestone. Numbers of white sea-birds were flying around, most probably Gulls and Gannets; but the distance was too great to determine their species, even with a glass; for although the day was fine and, for these stormy regions, very favourable for observation when near, still the atmosphere was hazy: and I consider myself most fortunate; for one rarely has the chance of seeing this locality at all, and still more rarely in fine weather. The outward-bound steamers always pass in the night; and the chance is but small that those homeward bound pass during daylight and enjoy fine weather as well. And there are probably but few days in the year when a small vessel could reach these sea-bird haunts with any certainty of returning within a reasonable time. From here we passed along the coast past Browhead signal-station, then between Cape Clear and the Fastnet Rock, on which the lighthouse is now placed, to Queenstown, arriving there at 10 P.M. Along the coast I observed numbers of Shearwaters, *Puffinus anglorum*—being much smaller and darker in colour than *P. major*, and with sharper points to the wings. There were also rock-birds and Kittiwakes in abundance, and a few Gannets. Here my observations came to an end, excepting only a few Terns seen off Holyhead the following day when we arrived in the Mersey.

XXXVI.—*Notes on the Ornithology of Italy and Spain.*

By HOWARD SAUNDERS, F.Z.S.

HAVING passed the last winter and spring in Italy and Spain, I am enabled to offer some further observations upon the ornithology of those countries.

Owing to the oft-remarked scarcity of birds, except Magpies, in France, my outward journey by way of Paris and Lyons calls for no observations. At Avignon there is a tolerable provincial collection in the Musée Requien; but although one of the Professors informed me that *Potamodus cettii* and *Ægithalus pendulinus* were two of the most characteristic birds of the marshy Camargue, he could give me no information as to the breeding-places of *Larus gelastes* and *Phænicopterus roseus*, the latter being, I believe, a very rare and irregular breeder in that district. Driving from Avignon to Nîmes, some Tawny Pipits (*Anthus rufescens*), a few Crested Larks, small flocks of Linnets, half a dozen Song-Thrushes, and one Redstart (*Ruticilla phænicura*) were the only birds I saw; but then such a furious *mistral* was blowing as would have prevented any sensible bird from unnecessary locomotion. At Nîmes the collection of the late M. Crespon is going fast to decay; but it is still highly valuable as illustrating the fauna of Provence, and contains a fine series of birds of prey, specimens of *Phænicopterus roseus* and *Larus gelastes*, with the eggs of both species, taken by M. Crespon himself.

At Marseilles the new Museum was not yet open; so I was unable to examine the *Otogyps auricularis* mentioned in the 'Richesses Ornithologiques du Midi de la France.' With the exception of Rock-Martins (*Cotyle rupestris*) and abundance of Black Redstarts (*Ruticilla tithys*) along the Cornice road to Genoa, my note-book is, ornithologically, silent until my arrival at Milan. Here I visited the superb collection of the Counts Turati, whose complete series of nests, eggs, and down-clad young of the birds which breed in Lombardy is in course of illustration by Signor Eugenio Bettoni (*cf.* Ibis, 1868, p. 106). Although the author mentions *Anthus richardi* as one of the "characteristic species" of the Lombard plain, he must not, I imagine, be understood to mean that it is in any way abundant, or even constant, in that province; for the Counts Turati assured me that it has never been discovered breeding there, and that, judging from the number of specimens enumerated as obtained in England, it is more common with us than with them. That its appearance is confined to the *plains* of Lombardy is probably the author's meaning.

Of course I examined the new and unique European bird *Synæcus lodoisiæ* (cf. Ibis, 1862, p. 380), which in my profane ignorance I considered a dark variety of *Coturnix communis*; but not wishing to lower myself further in the opinion of the possessors of this rarity, or of its godfathers, Messrs. Jules Verreaux and O. des Murs, I will limit myself to saying that new Australian species, or whatever it may be, was undoubtedly captured alive in Lombardy, and showed no signs of having escaped from confinement.

In the Palazzo Correr there is a fair local collection, and a far better one at Bologna. At Florence the natural-history department is at present hardly worthy of the new capital of Italy, the finest collections being at Turin, which I was unable to visit owing to severe cold and heavy falls of snow. At Pisa, under the able direction of Dr. Savi, the father of Italian ornithology, whose acquaintance I had the pleasure of making, the Museum would be an honour to any country; and no frequenter of our British Museum could help blushing if he compared the hideously distorted objects which our authorities are pleased to term "type specimens" with these life-like groups from the hand of an Italian at once naturalist and artist. The celebrated groups by Mr. John Hancock, of Newcastle, are the only ones with which I can compare those of Pisa. Especially worthy of notice is a group of Rose Pastors on a fruit-tree, and a flock of Starlings on the decomposed head of a goat. Perhaps the most taking of all is a vixen fox and litter; and, for spirit, a wolf fighting with two sheep-dogs is unrivalled.

But to return to Florence. The Museum possesses a mounted *Alca impennis*, for which, or for another recently purchased for the King, some exorbitant price was paid*. In the Zoological Gardens in the Cascine is an immense live Raven, labelled

[* We have some reason for believing that the specimen in the Museum at Florence is one of those that passed through the hands of the late apothecary Mecklenburg, of Flensburg, from whom it was bought by Heer Frank, of Amsterdam, and by him sold to Dr. Michahelles in Nuremberg, whence it was transferred to its present abode. The specimen now in the King of Italy's collection at Veneria Reale was formerly Pastor Brehm's, who obtained it in 1832 from the Museum of Copenhagen.—Ed.]

Corvus maximus, a title he well deserves. The remaining attractions are two Bears, two African Elephants, some Rabbits, Pheasants, Pigeons, and albinisms of *Cervus elaphus* and *C. dama*, which looked very ghastly on a wet December afternoon.

In the market I never found anything worthy of notice; a few Mallards and Pochards, Skylarks, Thrushes, and Jays are all I have noted. A single brace of Barbary Partridges (*Caccabis petrosa*) were held up for sale one day; but it is quite impossible to say whence they came.

Leaving the kingdom of Italy and entering the States of the Church, small birds became more numerous, as did also birds of prey. Near Orte an Eagle, probably *Circæus gallicus*, was observed sweeping over a wooded ravine; and Kites (*Milvus ictinus*), Marsh- and Hen-Harriers were not unfrequent. During a stay of a month in Rome I observed all the above species on the Campagna, the first being almost as abundant as the Common Kestrel (*Tinnunculus alaudarius*). One *Circus cineræus* of the year, a Peregrine Falcon, two Sparrow-Hawks, and one common Buzzard, also came under my observation, alive or in the market. Nailed to a barn-door I found the dried remains of *Hypotriorchis eleonora*, which, from the size, was probably a female; and this, with *Ephialtes scops* similarly crucified, and *Strix flammea*, completes my list of *Accipitres*. I may add that in the frescoes designed by Raphael on the ceiling of the Farnesine Palace, the "Bird of Jove" depicted is easily recognizable as *Aquila bonellii* in the first year's plumage.

Grey Wagtails, Hawfinches, Greenfinches, Linnets, Bullfinches, Cisalpine and Rock-Sparrows, Buntings, Crested, Sky-, Wood- and Calandra Larks, Blackcaps, Starlings, Thrushes, Blackbirds, and large bunches of Wrynecks make up my uninteresting list of the smaller birds.

Although the Blue Rock-Thrush (*Petrocincla cyanea*) is always to be found about the Coliseum, the Baths of Caracalla, and, indeed, any large ruin, yet I never noticed a specimen in the market, in which respect my experience tallies with that of Mr. Selater, as expressed in his list of Roman birds, published some years ago (Zoologist, 1854, pp. 4160-4164). Black Redstarts and Rock-Doves (*Columba livia*) are the other inhabitants of

Roman ruins; and along the Appian Way the Stone-Chat is very abundant, being considered too small for "caccia" by the natives. Rooks and Hooded Crows are abundant in the Campagna; and I once heard and saw a small flock of our Choughs (*Pyrrhocorax graculus*). Jackdaws are numerous in the city, and a small club held their daily gatherings in front of my windows on the Corso. In Spain I never saw one about habitations, but only far away in the wooded *cotos*. Black game (*Tetrao tetrix*) and Pheasants were frequently to be seen in the market; but they came by rail from a distance. The Red Partridges in the market were all *Caccabis saxatilis*. *Perdix cinerea* is also brought in, and, even in winter, a few Quails are never wanting.

In the celebrated mosaic from the Baths of Caracalla, a Barbary Partridge (*C. petrosa*) is represented; so that bird was probably considered rare by ancient Romans. Woodcock, Snipe and Jacksnipe, Lapwing, and Golden Plover were abundant; and occasionally a Curlew, Heron, or Bittern made its appearance on the stalls, amongst Bean-Geese (*Anser segetum*), Wigeon, Mallard, Teal, Tufted Duck, Pintail, Pochard, Scaup and Gadwall, brought in from the Pontine marshes. One female Smew and one *Anser erythropus* (Linn.) testified to the hardness of the winter, the most severe experienced in Italy for many years. *Larus ridibundus* and *L. argentatus*, the latter especially abundant on the Tiber, were the only Gulls I observed alive; but *L. minutus* is not uncommon in autumn and spring.

Naples and its Museum of Natural History do not call for any special remark; but at Sorrento I was shown a vilely stuffed specimen shot near the town, of what the owner called "Gran Duca," but it was really a *Bubo ascalaphus*.

At the Island of Capri, where I remained some time, I saw few birds, excepting a pair of Peregrines, Rock-Martins, and Herring-Gulls; but it is a place for Quails on their passage. The boatmen talk of a wonderful little bird, only to be seen on the rocks near the Blue Grotto, which I fancy must be *Tichodroma muraria*, although their description does not tally well with that of the Wall-Creeper.

My next halting-place was Palermo, where there is an excellent Museum, presided over by a most enthusiastic naturalist,

Professor Doderlein, who will in a short time make it the richest collection of European birds in Italy. The finest specimens of *Larus gelastes*, *L. melanocephalus*, and *L. minutus* are to be seen here; and, to my surprise, *L. atricilla* is a regular visitant in winter (cf. *suprà*, p. 255). I confess I was as incredulous as any of my readers can be, until I had carefully examined a series of specimens*. *Larus tridactylus* is found, but very rarely. I learned that *Vultur cinereus* is extremely uncommon in Sicily, though abundant in Sardinia; and indeed, in spite of the similarity in ruggedness and sparse population to Spain, yet raptorial birds appear to be by no means so abundant as in the latter country. Apart from ornithology, I cannot imagine a more delightful winter residence than Palermo, superior in comfort, cheapness, cleanliness, and, I think, in scenery to overrated, foul-smelling Naples. At Messina I called on Chevalier Luigi Benoit, the author of a well-known work on the birds of Sicily; but finding that his collection did not contain any special rarities, and a violent sirocco wind rendering life unendurable, I escaped by the afternoon train to Catania, where one could at least gaze upon Etna and talk of ascending it. It was all talk after all; for the "Casa Inglese" had been broken into by the snow, as we found when we got to Nicolosi; and though Dr. Gemmellaro did his best to send us up, the guides would not go. The abominable wind continued for a week, no vessels coming in or going out; and the Museum, though it contained a few good things, was soon exhausted. Its rarities are *Glaucidium passerinum*, *Hirundo rufula*, and *H. cahirica*, and of course the Francolin (*Francolinus vulgaris*). At Palermo I was told that this last still existed at Terranova, on the south coast, and nowhere else. Of the first statement I am doubtful; of the second I am pretty sure; for during a month's stay in Sicily I repeatedly offered 50 lire for a *Francolino* in the flesh, without success.

* We certainly had no American specimens for comparison, and could only compare the supposed immature birds in winter-plumage with specimens of similar age of *Larus canus*, *L. gelastes*, *L. leucophthalmus*, *L. melanocephalus*, *L. ridibundus*, and *L. tridactylus*, by the help of the last edition of Degland's 'Ornithologie Européenne.' The birds in question did not belong to any of the species just named.

I was unable to stop at the great marshes of Lentini, about halfway between Catania and Syracuse; but a friend told me that in all his experience he had never come across their equal for Ducks and Snipes. *Porphyrio veterum* and *Fuligula rufina* were hawked about Catania every day; but the latter were all females, and only one much damaged male was brought to me. *Anas boschas*, *Fuligula rufina*, and *F. nyroca* are the three commonest breeding Ducks in Sicily. In the winter the Gadwall and Pochard are as abundant as any. All the above mentioned are also found in the marshes of the Anapo, near Syracuse; and I think that the sportsman and naturalist could not well have better winter quarters than the last most interesting city. There is a fair local museum there, containing, amongst other things, *Syrnhaptes paradoxus* and *Otis houbara*, killed there. The bay was full of Pochards, Divers, Great Crested Grebes, and Gulls, especially *Larus minutus*, *L. melanocephalus*, and *L. ridibundus*. The last, which left on the 3rd or 4th of March, had scarcely a sign of the hood, whereas *L. melanocephalus* had completely assumed the black head. *L. gelastes* I frequently observed on the Sicilian coast.

From Sicily to Malta, where I had the pleasure of seeing Mr. C. W. Wright's collection; and in his company I passed many agreeable hours: but to his ample Catalogue of the Birds of Malta I can add nothing; so I pass at once to Gibraltar, where I arrived on the 17th of March. What a change from the comparatively nonaviferous Italy! As we drove out to the Monkey Battery, Kestrels were hovering along the rocks, Black Chats (*Saxicola cachinnans*) were making love in their own quarrelsome manner, the Blue Thrushes, also pairing, were chasing one another about the rocks; over the sea an unfortunate Osprey was being bullied by a pair of Ravens, whilst near the signal station a Bonelli's Eagle or two might be seen every few minutes. Amongst the trees of the promenade our own common Blackbirds, Thrushes, Redbreasts, and Sparrows enlivened the scene, whilst *Sylvia melanocephala* scolded in every clump of pines, and the "bu-bu" of the Hoopoe still reminded one of the south. A week on the mainland of Italy would not give you so many birds as this two hours' drive.

Of course I was not many hours in Gibraltar before I made my way to the Signal-station, where the sergeant showed me a nest of Bonelli's Eagle, from which the young had been hatched five or six days prior to my visit. Strange to say, about two days after the young were hatched they disappeared from the nest; and as no one could possibly have taken them without the cognizance of the signalmen, it is probable that the old birds had removed them, annoyed by too much inspection. During a week I visited the station every day, having discovered that two more pairs of this Eagle were then making their nests—one in the very crag on which the battery is perched, the other in a projecting buttress of rock to the south. An hour after day-break generally found me at the station, where for several hours I watched these birds, now dropping down towards Catalan Bay to tear up pieces of scrub for their nests, and now diversifying their labours by a pounce upon some unfortunate rabbit, which was immediately carried off to some neighbouring crag and devoured. The pair whose nest was in full view of the station, used to make an old nest their dining-room. I never saw them take anything but rabbits; and it is probably owing to the extreme abundance of these animals that so many pairs of raptorial birds are found within so short a distance of one another. Such being their quarry, I was of course deprived of the pleasure of seeing them swoop like a Falcon, as described by Lord Lilford (*Ibis*, 1861, pp. 4, 5); but they certainly used to skim over, and pick up a rabbit, with a graceful gliding flight, unrivalled even by the Goshawk, with which this Eagle seems to have strong affinities.

One morning, when unusually early at my post (I had left home before sunrise), I noticed a pair wheeling round and performing antics in the air similar to those of Ravens; this lasted about half an hour, after which they settled to the work of nest-building; then came a light breakfast on rabbits, after which some half-dozen journeys were made for sticks; then came another rabbit, after which they retired—for a digestive nap, I suppose. But Bonelli's Eagle was not the only attraction of this noble look-out; mingled with Common Swifts, House-Martins, and Swallows were several hundreds of Alpine Swifts

(*Cypselus melba*), and a few pairs of Rock-Martins (*Cotyle rupestris*), whilst everywhere the Blue Thrush attracted attention by its plaintive note. A pair of Egyptian Vultures were evidently contemplating a nest above Catalan Bay, though somewhat deterred by the impudent bullying of a pair of Ravens.

Though naturally anxious to reach Malaga, so as to visit my last year's eyry of *Aquila bonellii* in the Gaitanes mountains (*suprà* p. 184), I was unable to get there till the 24th March, when I found a letter saying that my man had discovered this year's nest, and that the female was sitting very hard, scarcely leaving the nest at all. Starting early before daybreak the very next morning, I found myself before midday amongst my old friends in the mountains, and, with Juan, Gabriel, and another brother of the same distinguished family, set off at once for the Eagle's nest, which was situated close to that from which I took the young last year. As I wanted the parent bird, Gabriel (the crack shot of that family of marksmen) drew his charge, and after substituting some of my powder for his own, and carefully loading with a single ball, rejoined Juan, who had gone round with the ropes to the summit of the cliff. With the remaining brother, whose gun was loaded with shot, I clambered to my old post of last year, and there waited for those on the top. At last they came; we stood ready: but it took a good deal of shouting and several clods thrown down before the female would stir; then she darted out like an arrow. Both fired, but she still kept on; then suddenly with a sideward motion of her tail, exactly like a rudder when the lower gudgeon has given way, she fell like a stone into the olive-covered slopes below. When picked up, it was found that Gabriel's ball had passed completely through her back, nearly dividing the vertebra, which had afterwards given way. Juan went down and took the eggs, which are of a bluish white, the one fairly marked with reddish brown, the other almost unspotted: their shape is more oblong than that of any other European Eagle's egg in my collection; and indeed I know none with which I could possibly confuse them. I have seen dealers' eggs ascribed to *A. nævioides* which I have now no doubt are those of *A. bonellii*, as it is one of the commonest rock-breeding Eagles on both sides of the Mediterranean. It

was well that I had lost no time ; for on putting the extractor in on one side of the best-marked egg, the chick attempted to force its way out on the other, and actually broke the shell ; so the extraction cost both time and trouble. The male Eagle was brought in a few days afterwards.

During January and February the winter, even in the mountains, had scarcely been felt ; but in March cold set in, and, although I visited Granada, any expedition to the Sierra Nevada was again out of the question. At the beginning of April the trees were but just bursting into leaf, and the only nest I took was one of the Citril-finch in the avenues leading to the Alhambra. On my return to Malaga I paid two more visits to the mountains, where I called upon a colony of Griffon-Vultures, obtaining many eggs and several young birds. Although we never passed a day without seeing at least one *Gypaetus barbatus*, yet my men did not discover its eyry till May 4th, when they took a young one, now in my possession, as are also two down-clad young of *Aquila chrysaetus* taken May 27th, all apparently hatched about the same time, unless the young *Gypaetes* prove of slower growth than the latter. Two nests of *Saxicola cachinans*, one of *Petrocincla cyanea*, and two young birds of *Bubo maximus*, with a few eggs of *Neophron percnopterus*, were all I obtained in the mountains this year.

My cazador, Manuel, at Seville, had not been idle ; and on my arrival there I sent him down to the Cotos, being prevented from accompanying him, owing to the indisposition of my wife. In the clump of trees where *Aquila heliaca* regularly breeds, but whose nest last year was empty, he found one egg, somewhat incubated ; in another nest of the same species, however, he found four eggs, which, judging from the family likeness, are all the produce of the same female. On blowing them, one proved considerably incubated ; another, having been partially so, had turned bad ; and the remaining two were nearly fresh. The usual list of Coto birds and eggs, with a much damaged female *Circus pallidus* and two eggs, and two very black males of *C. cineraceus*, were the fruits of this expedition ; and subsequent ones produced little novelty. About this time Lord Lilford arrived in Seville, and took over my Manuel, whilst I proceeded to his

former ground at Aranjuez to take up with his Manuel and the faithful Agapo, aforetime mentioned in 'The Ibis' (1866, p. 183). Before leaving Seville I paid a visit to Jerez, and, through the kindness of a friend, became the possessor of several valuable eggs, notably some of *Phœnicopterus roseus*.

On arriving at Aranjuez I found that Manuel de la Torre was away in the Guadarrama collecting eggs of *Vultur cinereus*; but after a few hours Agapo turned up, and we at once went out after Great Spotted Cuckoo (*Oxylophus glandarius*), which is far more abundant here than it is in the Cotos, depositing its eggs as there, in nests of *Pica melanoleuca*. The largest number I ever found in one nest was six; and in one nest four eggs, in others one or two was the number. Although I never actually saw the Cuckoo deposit its egg, yet I saw one fly past me which I feel sure had something like an egg in its gullet; from the side of another nest I saw the Cuckoo go off, leaving a broken Magpie's egg at the foot of the tree, and in the nest an egg of her own wet with yelk. As we came up, her head was in the nest; and she fairly backed out, which she would never have done if it were her habit to lay her egg in the nest as ordinary birds do, in which case her head would have been looking outwards. It seems to me pretty positive proof that the Cuckoo flew to the Magpie's nest with her own egg in her mouth, deposited it there, took out an egg of the Magpie's, crushed it with her bill, and, dropping the fragments outside, returned to arrange her own egg comfortably in the place now vacant. If not, why does it constantly, I may say generally, happen that the Cuckoo's egg is smeared with yelk whilst the remaining Magpie's eggs are as constantly clean? I also noticed that when a Cuckoo was near, the Magpies could hardly be induced to leave their nests, whereas at other times there was no hesitation on their part. Any one who could give a week's attention to this point could easily settle it by the aid of a good binocular glass, as the Magpies' nests are visible from a long distance, and the mode of deposit adopted by the Cuckoo could be easily distinguished.

Although I had already obtained eggs of the Booted Eagle near Seville, it had scarcely begun breeding near Aranjuez; and on the 1st of May I was obliged to continue my journey north-

wards to Madrid. Here I found Manuel with a splendid series of eggs of Cinereous Vulture; and as he informed me that he had robbed every nest he knew of, it was useless to go up into the Guadarrama this year. He had also taken a nest of Dipper, which he considered a great rarity; but, unfortunately, he had not secured the bird, so I am unable to say whether it is *Cinclus aquaticus* or *C. melanogaster*. I expect some skins in a few weeks from the province of Santander.

During this visit I have quite convinced myself of the existence of *Aquila navioides* in Spain*, having examined various stuffed specimens; and in the Duc de Montpensier's gardens at Seville there is a magnificent live bird of this species, taken last year from the nest in the woods near Cordova. I was also informed that it came from a brood of four—an assertion I then doubted; but after the example already furnished by the Imperial Eagle, it may be true. My informant added that this species often nested on scrub and tussocks, but a few feet from the ground, after the manner of the Harriers; and considering its affinities with *A. navia*, and Mr. Hudleston's experience of that bird's breeding-places in the Dobrudscha (Ibis, 1861, p. 368), this is not improbable. In the Madrid Museum is a fine series of this bird; but although Manuel knew it, yet I could not learn that he had ever found it breeding, and I myself have never been able to recognize it in a wild state.

As I am now preparing a list of the birds of Southern Spain, any further remarks would probably result in useless repetition; but before closing this notice I would draw attention to the abundance of birds in that country as compared with Italy; and I refer not merely to abundance of species but of individuals. It would be manifestly unfair to mention the spring and summer visitors to the former, as I have not passed those seasons in Italy; but compare the market of Rome, by far the richest in Italy, with that of Seville, and the deficiency in the former is most striking—all the more so because everything is considered *caccia* by the Italians, and consequently all sorts of uneatable birds come into the market, whereas the Spaniard, who is a

* [See the statements of Mr. Selater (Ibis, 1863, p. 352; 1865, p. 359) and Lord Lilford (*tom. cit.* p. 172).—ED.]

somewhat dainty feeder, never shoots anything except for the pot. Yet, although the Spaniard would scorn to stalk a Chaffinch or a Redbreast from bush to bush, the number of Larks, Sparrows, and such like exposed in the markets of Spain is fully tenfold more than is to be found in those of Italy; and yet you see bands of small birds even in the most arid parts of Spain for individuals in Italy. The fertility of the soil must be pretty nearly equal in both countries; and my own idea is that, whereas the greater part of the small birds in Spain are taken by snares (*costillas*) or in nets, the Italian, who is never so happy as when he can let his gun off at anything, however insignificant, scares the birds out of the country by his incessant popping. But, whatever be the reason, even the mere tourist passing through by railway from Irun to Cadiz could hardly help observing that the general complaint of the absence of birds on the Continent by no means applies to Spain, which is, both in species of birds and individuals, one of the richest in Europe.

XXXVII.—*Additional Notes on various Indian Birds.*

By R. C. BEAVAN, Bengal Staff Corps, C.M.Z.S.

HAVING had the opportunity of making further observations on some of the species belonging to the groups included in my former "Notes" *, and especially in the earliest paper of the series, I think that a knowledge of them may be of use to those interested in Indian ornithology. As before, I follow the arrangement of Dr. Jerdon in his 'Birds of India,' and the numbers prefixed are the same as in that work.

84. *HIRUNDO FILIFERA*. Wire-tailed Swallow.

I have frequently heard from my late friend Dr. Scott that this Swallow occurs in some abundance about Umballah in certain seasons, and breeds there under culverts and road-bridges in that station; but I myself never observed it there, but did so in the cold weather of 1866, near Morar, Gwalior, when out on a fishing-excursion with my brother. It is a very beautiful

* Ibis, 1865, pp. 400-423; 1867, pp. 430-455; 1868, pp. 73-85, 165-181, 370-406; and (*Accipitres*) P. Z. S. 1868, pp. 390-402.